EU demand to lift quantitative restrictions on 100 items

3884. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the European Union demanded lifting of all quantitative restrictions imposed by India on 100 products;

(b) if so, the details of the products on which QRs are imposed; and

(c) whether the QRs are in accordance with the provisions of Article 20and21ofGATT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) EU had requested consultations with India under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the World Trade Organisaton regarding import restrictions maintained by India on more than 100 products.

(b) India maintains import restrictions on certain products for purposes like (i) protecion of public morals; (ii) protecting human, animal, plant life or health; (iii) relating to importation or exportation of gold or silver; (iv) for securing compliance with domestic laws or regulations; (v) for protection of national treasures of artistic, historic or archaeological value; (vi) for conservation of exhaustible natural resources and (vii) for national security, etc.

Details of these products.are available in the document 'ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items', which is a part of the EXIM Policy and is available in the Parliament Library.

(c) The Articles XX & XXI of GATT1994 allow Members to maintain import restrictions on the above grounds.

Export and import

3885. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH : Will Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum and value of various items exported and imported by the country during the Ninth Five-Year Plan, year-wise;

(b) the details of foreign exchange earned therefrom during this period;

(c) whether Government have formulated any policy to increase our exports; and